were eligible for sanction of production credit for cultivation purposes. However, the scope of the scheme has since been widened to cover other related purposes like term/working capital for agriculture and allied activities including a component for consumption needs. Now, the scheme also covers all eligible tenant farmers, oral lessees and share croppers. The main objectives of the schemes are to provide hassle free credit, to reduce the cost of borrowings and to bring down borrowings by farmers from informal sources like money lenders etc.

(c) to (e) The year-wise details of number of KCCs issued by all the banks and amount disbursed to farmers in Rajasthan since inception of the schemes are as under:—

(Rs. crore)

Year	No. of cards issued (Lakh)	Amount Disbursed
1998-1999	1.51	—
1999-2000	8.87	1479.22
2000-2001	4.93	1129.24
2001-2002	3.10	2108.34
2002-2003	1.84	1724.68
2003-2004	5.77	1263.59
2004-2005	8.75	3610.55
2005-2006 (till 31 Dec.2005)	2.03	1950.52
TOTAL:	36.83	13266.14

(f) Reserve Bank of India and NABARD have advised all banks to issue KCCs to all eligible farmers throughout India by 2005-06 crop season.

Shortage of Clerical Staff in Banks

1534. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Public Sector Banks are facing a shortage of 40,000 clerical staff in various banks all over the country; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to be taken to fill up the vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Most of the Public Sector Banks (PSBs) have reported that there is no shortage of clercial staff. However, some of the PSBs have reported that there is some shortage and the concerned banks are taking steps to fill up the vacant posts by redepolyment, special recruitment drive for SCs and STs any by regular recruitment process.

Dearness allowance due to employees

1535. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which additional dearness allowance and relief has become due to Central Government employees and pensioners *w.e.f.* 1st January, 2006;

(b) by when orders to that effect are likely to be issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Dearness Allowance (DA)/ Dearness Relief (DR) to Central Government Employees/Pensioners is revised twice a year from 1st January and 1st July and normally payable with salary for the months of March and September respectively. The revised amount of DA/DR will be notified in due course.

Action against NBFCs

†1536. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to check the fraud of non-banking financial companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of those non-banking companies who have cheated public during the last two years; and

(d) the action taken by Government so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have not come across any frauds in Non-Banking Financial companies (NBFCs).

(c) During the last two years, the Bank has received complaints against 11 (eleven) NBFCs which have defaulted in maturity payments to the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.